



TO: Members, House Economic Matters Committee
FROM: Paul Pinsky Director, MEA
SUBJECT: HB 1186 - Public Service Companies - Annual Report on Votes Cast at Meetings of Regional Transmission Organizations
DATE: March 9, 2023

MEA Position: FAV

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) strongly supports House Bill 1186, and the increased transparency and opportunity for collaboration it will provide. This legislation will require companies that engage in the transmission of electricity in Maryland to report to the Public Service Commission (Commission) annually a list of any votes cast by at a meeting of the regional transmission organization (RTO).¹ Maryland is part of PJM Interconnection, so this bill would retain voting records from that organization.

The PJM footprint is vast, including all or part of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. However, these jurisdictions do not have the ability to participate or engage meaningfully within the PJM decision making process. Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc, another RTO includes member states within the deliberative process, including the placement of regulatory authorities and other state agencies on its Advisory Committee.

Maryland does not have this benefit, and HB 1186 is an excellent first step toward increased collaboration with PJM and its members, as well as increased transparency and accountability for the decisions they make within the PJM deliberative process.

MEA asks the commission to support greater State engagement with our RTO and increased transparency by issuing a **FAVORABLE** report.

¹ The bill affects “public service companies. The statutory definition of public service companies” includes “electric companies”, and “electric company” means an entity that transmits electricity in the State.